

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-14

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, AS US

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPERS CONTINUE COVERAGE OF
BARNARD VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

REF: CANBERRA 0023

1. SUMMARY : AGAIN ON JANUARY 3 AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPERS
PROVIDE CONSIDERABLE COVERAGE OF DEFENSE MINISTER
BARNARD'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON. MOST STORIES OCCASIONED
BY BARNARD'S FARWELL REMARKS IN SYDNEY PRIOR TO HIS
DEPARTURE JANUARY 2. IN APPARENT SHIFT OF EMPHASIS,
JOURNALISTS NOW ARE LOOKING TO PROGRESS ON JOINT CONSUL-
TATION OF A STRATEGIC KIND AS PART OF THE ANSWER TO
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AUSTRALIAN "CONTROL" OF NORTHWEST CAPE STATION AND BELIEVE

THAT BARNARD'S MEETING WITH SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SCHLESSINGER COULD PROMOTE BETTER US-AUSTRALIAN COOPERATION IN FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

2. ON DEPARTURE FROM SYDNEY JANUARY 2, BARNARD REPORTEDLY INDICATED HE EXPECTED MORE AUSTRALIAN "CONTROL" OVER ACTIVITIES AT NWC STATION TO RESULT FROM FORTHCOMING MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON. HE NOTED GOOD POSSIBILITY OF GREATER AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION IN STATION OPERATIONS AND PARTICULARLY STATED DESIRABILITY OF APPOINTING AUSTRALIAN DEPUTY COMMANDER AT STATION. BARNARD ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE NOTED THAT 1963 AGREEMENT FOR STATION HAS RESTRICTED CURRENT GOA TO SOME EXTENT IN OPERATIONAL AND OTHER CHANGES WHICH MIGHT OTHERWISE BE PURSUED.

3. EDITORIALS IN BOTH THE MELBOURNE AGE AND THE AUSTRALIAN CONFIRM ACCEPTANCE BY JOURNALISTS THAT IT PROBABLY IS NOT TECHNICALLY OR POLITICALLY FEASIBLE FOR GOA TO MONITOR US MESSAGES PASSING THROUGH STATION. THE AUSTRALIAN, HOWEVER RECOMMENDS THIS SUBJECT SHOULD BE PURSUED BY MR. BARNARD IN ORDER TO GET ACROSS TO USG THAT SITUATION IN AUSTRALIA HAS CHANGED UNDER CURRENT ALP GOVERNMENT. BOTH EDITORIALS EMPHASIZE PROSPECTIVE GOOD REDOUNDING TO BENEFIT OF US-AUSTRALIAN RELATIONS AND COOPERATION WITH COULD RESULT FROM BARNARD MEETING WITH SECRETARY SCHLESINGER.

4. COMMENT: RESPONSIBLE AUSTRALIAN EDITORIALS EMPHASIZE NEED FOR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION OF STRATEGIC AND POLITICAL KIND IN ORDER TO REBUILD GOOD COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. EMPHASIS IS UPON BROAD US-AUSTRALIAN RELATIONSHIP RATHER THAN UPON THE PARTICULARITIES OF NWC NEGOTIATIONS.

ALP LEFT-WINGER HARTELY ANNOUNCED THAT REGARDLESS OF OUTCOME BARNARD VISIT THE LEFT OF PARTY AND TRADE UNION MOVEMENT WOULD MAINTAIN FIRM PRESSURE ON GOVERNMENT TO BE RID OF ALL US BASES AND TO MOVE TOWARD TRUE INDEPENDENCE AND NON-ALIGNMENT. HE AND HIS ASSOCIATES ARE NOT GOING TO GIVE UP BUT WE CAN PERHAPS TAKE HEART FROM FACT HE SEEMS TO ACCEPT OUTCOME OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BARNARD VIST REGARDING NORTHWEST CAPE AND HIS RETURNED TO MORE GENERAL RATHER THAN SPECIFIC ATTACK UPON AUSTRALIAN RELATIONS WITH US.
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